

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 01656 221420Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1656

EXDIS

PERSONAL FOR THE SECRETARY FROM KUBISCH

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CY, OVIP(CLIFFORD, CLARK M.)
SUBJECT: THE CLIFFORD VISIT TO GREECE

1. CLARK CLIFFORD'S VISIT TO GREECE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS.
HE HAD A GREATER AND MORE FAVORABLE IMPACT ON GREEK
OFFICIALS AND GREEK PUBLIC OPINION THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE AMERICAN
IN THE TWO AND A HALF YEARS THAT I HAVE BEEN AMBASSADOR HERE.

2. NOT THAT HE MADE ANY FAR-REACHING PROMISES. HE DID NOT --
EXCEPT THAT HE WOULD CONVEY GREEK VIEWS AND HIS ASSESSMENT
OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE AREA FULLY AND FAITHFULLY TO
PRESIDENT CARTER AND YOU. HE WAS EXTREMELY PRUDENT AND RE-
SERVED IN WHAT HE HAD TO SAY, BOTH PUBLICLY TO THE PRESS AND
PRIVATELY TO GREEK OFFICIALS. HE LED NOBODY HERE TO BELIEVE
THAT SPECTACULAR SOLUTIONS TO THE COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF THE AREA
WERE IN THE OFFING OR THAT WASHINGTON POLICIES
HENCEFORTH WOULD HAVE SOME KIND OF PRO-GREEK TILT. BUT BY HIS
MANNER, HIS LOOKS, HIS STYLE, HIS THOUGHTFULNESS, AND HIS
SPONTANEOUS RESPONSES TO QUERIES, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE,
HE CONVEYED THE IMPRESSION OF BASIC GOOD WILL, INTEGRITY AND
OBJECTIVITY -- AND THAT, MANY GREEKS SAY, IS WHAT THEY WANT FROM
WASHINGTON.

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2. AFTER TWO AND A HALF YEARS OF LIVING IN AN ENVIRONMENT
CHARACTERIZED BY HOSTILITY, RESENTMENT AND BITTERNESS
AGAINST AMERICANS, (ALTHOUGH PROGRESSIVELY LESS SO DURING
THE PERIOD), IT WAS A PERSONAL PLEASURE FOR ME TO SEE THE
FRIENDLY WAVES AND SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE AS I MOVED AROUND THE
CITY WITH CLIFFORD TO OUR VARIOUS MEETINGS AND VISITS.

THE PUBLIC, PRESS, RADIO AND TV REACTION WAS ALMOST
UNIVERSALLY FAVORABLE AND THE PERSONAL WARMTH AND EMPATHY THAT
MARKED CLIFFORD'S MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND
OTHER TOP GREEK OFFICIALS WILL BE AN ASSET FOR A LONG TIME
TO COME. EVEN IF HE WERE TO DO NOTHING MORE IN THIS AREA,
CLARK CLIFFORD HAS ALREADY PERFORMED A VERY VALUABLE SERVICE
TO YOU, THE PRESIDENT AND OUR COUNTRY BY HIS VISIT TO GREECE.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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